



**UNITED STATES SECTION
of the
PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION**

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**TESTIMONY OF JEFFREY P. KOENINGS
U.S. COMMISSIONER, PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION
U.S. SECTION OF THE PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION**

**BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE,
JUSTICE, SCIENCE AND RELATED AGENCIES
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
April 2, 2009**

Mr. Chairman, my name is Jeffrey P. Koenings and I serve as a U.S. Commissioner on the Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC). The PSC was established in 1985 to oversee implementation of the Pacific Salmon Treaty (Treaty) between the U.S. and Canada. In May of 2008, under the framework of the Treaty, the PSC concluded bilateral negotiations that developed revised ten-year salmon fishing regimes to replace regimes that were expiring at the end of 2008. The provisions of the new fisheries agreements will be implemented during the 2009 – 2018 period. The U.S. Section recommends that Congress:

- fund the Pacific Salmon Treaty Line Item of the National Marine Fisheries Service at \$8,000,000 for FY 2010. This funding provides the technical support for the states of Alaska, Washington, Oregon and Idaho and the National Marine Fisheries Service to conduct the salmon stock assessment and fishery management programs required to implement the Treaty fishing regimes. Included within the total amount of \$8,000,000 is \$400,000 to continue a joint Transboundary River Enhancement Program as required by the Treaty.
- fund the Pacific Salmon Treaty Chinook Salmon Agreement line item of the National Marine Fisheries Service for FY 2010 at \$1,844,000, level funding from what has been provided by Congress in recent years. This funding is necessary to acquire the technical information to fully implement the abundance-based Chinook salmon management program provided for under the Treaty.

The funding identified above is for ongoing annual programs and does not include new funding specifically needed for full application of the revised May, 2008 Agreement for 2009-2018 that was negotiated by the PSC and accepted by the Governments of the U.S. and Canada on December 23, 2008. The U.S. PSC State and Tribal commissioners have been, and will continue to work with federal agency representatives and Congress to secure the new funding to support the new agreements.

The base Treaty implementation projects included in the Pacific Salmon Treaty Line Item consist of a wide range of stock assessment, fishery monitoring, and technical support activities for all five species of Pacific salmon in the fisheries and rivers from Southeast Alaska to those of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. The states of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, the federal National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and the 24 treaty tribes of Washington and Oregon are charged with carrying out the salmon fishery stock assessment and harvest management actions required under the Treaty. Federal funding for these activities is provided through NMFS on an annual basis. The agency projects carried out under PSC funding are directed toward acquiring, analyzing, and sharing the information required to implement the salmon conservation and sharing principles of the Treaty. A wide range of programs for salmon stock size assessments, escapement enumeration, stock distribution, and catch and effort information collection from fisheries, are represented. The information from many of these programs is used directly to establish fishing seasons, harvest levels and accountability to the provisions of Treaty fishing regimes.

Effective, science based implementation of negotiated fishing arrangements and abundance-based management approaches for Chinook, southern coho, Northern Boundary and Transboundary River fisheries includes efforts such as increased annual tagging and tag recovery operations and application of other emerging stock identification techniques. The U.S. PSC members recommend that \$8,000,000 be provided for the NMFS Pacific Salmon Treaty Line Item in FY 2010 for Treaty technical support activities. The \$400,000 that has been provided since 1988 for a joint Transboundary River enhancement program with Canada is included in this amount. The recommended amount for the combined projects represents an increase of \$2,008,000 over the amount appropriated for FY 2008

Beginning in FY 1998, Congress provided \$1,844,000 to allow for the collection of necessary stock assessment and fishery management information to implement a new abundance based management approach for Chinook salmon coast-wide in the Treaty area. Through a rigorous competitive technical review process for project approval, the states of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, and the twenty-four treaty tribes are using the funding to support research and data collection needed for abundance-based Chinook management. The U.S. Section recommends level funding of \$1,844,000 for FY 2010 to support the abundance-based Chinook salmon management.

The U.S. and Canada agreed in 1988 to a joint salmon enhancement program on the Transboundary Rivers, which are rivers rising in Canada and flowing to the sea through Southeast Alaska. Since 1989, Congress has provided \$400,000 annually for this effort through the National Marine Fisheries Service International Fisheries Commission line item under the Conservation and Management Operations activity.

Canada provides an equal amount of funding and support for this bilateral program. This funding is included in the \$8,000,000 the U.S. Section is recommending for the FY 2010 NMFS Pacific Salmon Treaty line item.

This concludes the Statement of the U.S. Section of the PSC submitted for consideration by your committee. We wish to thank the committee for the support that it has given us in the past. I will be pleased to answer any questions the Committee Members may have.

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM FUNDING FOR THE U.S.-CANADA PACIFIC SALMON TREATY

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Pacific Salmon Treaty Line Item

<u>FY 08 Appropriation</u>	<u>FY 09 Administration Request</u>	<u>FY 10 U.S. Section Recommendation</u>
\$5,592,000	\$5,616,000	\$8,000,000

The recommended FY 10 amount includes \$400,000 provided for the Joint Transboundary River Enhancement Program previously funded under the NMFS International Fisheries Commission account.

Pacific Salmon Treaty – Chinook Salmon Agreement Line Item

<u>FY 08 Appropriation</u>	<u>FY 09 Administration Request</u>	<u>FY 10 U.S. Section Recommendation</u>
\$1,844,000	\$1,844,000	\$1,844,000